

Racial Ethnic Dream Team Report
Jan. 13, 2012

The Racial Ethnic Dream team had its initial meeting Dec. 15, 2011, at First UMC in Manhattan, Kan. Racial ethnic clergy and laity representing the Korean, African American, Native American and Hispanic populations from the three conferences were in attendance.

The meeting opened with worship lead by Charlotte Abram (Nebraska).

The Rev. Dr. Jesse Foster (Nebraska) led the team through a series of team building, communications and trust building group exercises.

The team before and after lunch engaged in a time of introductions and sharing of our stories. During this time we discussed our perceptions of the current reality and where we are in our conferences with respect to diversity at all levels.

The team began to discuss their dreams for the conference. The team reviewed and discussed the Guidelines/Parameters for the Technical and Dream Teams.

Although no recommendations were developed the group spent considerable time discussing expectations of the conference, its leadership, its staffing, and building for the future.

The team plans to continue meeting and to work on increasing the participation/ attendance of racial ethnic members. We spent time identifying others who need to be present for this dreaming process.

Foster, the Nebraska Conference's director of Christian leadership development, facilitated the meeting and was selected as the team's coordinator. Javier Rios of the Kansas East Conference was selected co-coordinator.

The group decided that we are not ready to publish the ideas/suggestions at this time. We want to allow future discussion and work the opportunity to shape our final presentation. Consequently each member is asked to hold our conversations in confidence.

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 18, at First UMC in Salina, Kan.

Oliver Green, Transition Team Member

Attendees

Nebraska: Jesse Foster, Jim Corson, Cesar Duran, Andrea Palacios and Charlotte Abram

Kansas East: Oliver Green, Andrew Gardner, Javier Rios, Courtney Fowler, Seong Lee, Lester Montgomery and Beverly Hall

Kansas West: Corey Godbey and Gabriel Marrero